



P.B.5818 - Patentlaan 2
2280 HV Rijswijk (ZH)
☎ +31 70 340 2040
TX 31651 epo nl
FAX +31 70 340 3016

Eur päisch s
Patentamt

Eingangs-
stelle

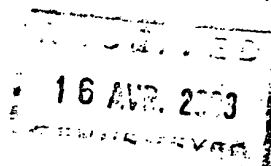
Eur pean
Patent Office

Receiving
Section

Office européen
des brev ts

Section de
Dépôt

Waxweiler, Jean
Dennemeyer & Associates S.A.,
P.O. Box 1502
1015 Luxembourg
LUXEMBOURG



Datum/Date

14-04-2003

Zeichen/Ref./Réf.

FMS-11672

Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.

99929768.2-2216- PCT/JP9903714

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

NHK SPRING CO.LTD.

PROCEEDING FURTHER WITH THE EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION PURSUANT TO
ARTICLE 96(1) AND RULE 51(1) EPC

A supplementary European search report has been drawn up concerning
the above European patent application (publication no. 1113275).

Since you have filed a request for examination prior to the trans-
mission of the supplementary European search report, you are hereby
invited to indicate within

TWO MONTHS

of notification of this invitation whether you desire to proceed
further with the European patent application.

If you do not indicate in due time that you desire to proceed further
with the European patent application, it will be deemed to be withdrawn
(Art. 96(3) EPC).

If you wish you may comment on the supplementary European search report
and amend, where appropriate, the description, claims and drawings
(Rule 51(1) EPC).

RECEIVING SECTION



REGISTERED LETTER

EPO Form 1224 04.85

99929768.2 DMEX

7001007 05/04/03

..... M02

004



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A ✓	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 05, 30 April 1998 (1998-04-30) -& JP 10 019926 A (NHK SPRING CO LTD), 23 January 1998 (1998-01-23) * abstract; figures 1,2,7,8 *	1-15	G01R1/067
L	-& US 6 043 666 A (KAZAMA TOSHIO) 28 March 2000 (2000-03-28) * figures 1,2,7,8 *	1-15	
A ✓	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1995, no. 09, 31 October 1995 (1995-10-31) -& JP 07 161416 A (EXCEL DENSHI:KK), 23 June 1995 (1995-06-23) * abstract; figures 2,5,7 *	1-6	
A ✓	WO 97 39361 A (NHK SPRING CO LTD ;KAZAMA TOSHIO (JP)) 23 October 1997 (1997-10-23) * abstract; figures 7-11 *	1,4-6	
L	-& US 6 150 616 A (KAZAMA TOSHIO) 21 November 2000 (2000-11-21) * column 8, line 35 - column 9, line 11; figures 10,11 *	1,4-6	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
A ✓	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1997, no. 09, 30 September 1997 (1997-09-30) -& JP 09 121007 A (NHK SPRING CO LTD), 6 May 1997 (1997-05-06) * abstract; figure 1 *	1	G01R
The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 2 Apr11 2003	Examiner Jakob, C
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document		T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons ----- &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 99 92 9768

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

02-04-2003

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
JP 10019926 ↓ A	23-01-1998	US 6043666 A	28-03-2000
JP 07161416 A	23-06-1995	NONE	
WO 9739361 A	23-10-1997	JP 3165648 B2	14-05-2001
		JP 9329624 A	22-12-1997
		CN 1218554 A	02-06-1999
		DE 19781697 T0	18-03-1999
		WO 9739361 A1	23-10-1997
		WO 9829751 A1	09-07-1998
		US 6150616 A	21-11-2000
		DE 69711083 D1	18-04-2002
		DE 69711083 T2	18-07-2002
		EP 0950191 A1	20-10-1999
		IL 122768 A	29-06-2000
		JP 3326095 B2	17-09-2002
		JP 10239349 A	11-09-1998
		US 6323667 B1	27-11-2001
JP 09121007 ↓ A	06-05-1997	JP 3342789 B2	11-11-2002